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Allen-Scott Report

Completion of Four Russian-Built Missile Bases in Cuba Reported

By ROBERT S. ALLEN and PAUL SCOTT

Soviet technicians have completed work in Cuba on four bases suitable for launching intermediate-range ballistic missiles against the U. S.

These secret rocket installations are located near the Cuban cities of Holguin, Camaguey, Matanzas and Pinar del Rio—all within a 90- to 175-mile range of the Florida coast.



Mr. Allen

The completion of these rocket bases is reported in an intelligence estimate now being circulated at the highest level of the Kennedy administration.

The intelligence report spread an almost visible chill through the Defense Department with its conclusion that these bases are ready for the installation of

operational IRBMs.

Under construction since Fidel Castro took over in January 1959, these bases now consist of cement launching areas, control block houses and missile and fuel storage areas.

THERE IS ONE unconfirmed report that Soviet IRBMs already have been installed at the Holguin base in Oriente Province. However, U. S. intelligence agencies have been unable to confirm this report from the Cuban underground.

The unloading of two 60-foot missiles at the Holguin base late in January was reported by a member of the Cuban underground. Numerous U2 reconnaissance flights over the base

photos failed to produce photographs of the missiles. But the flights did confirm information about the base which the same underground informant had provided a U. S. intelligence agency.

Other information about the Cuban bases that U. S. authorities have confirmed includes a report that Gen. Enrique Lister, former Spanish Republican Army general, is in charge of

the four bases.

It was also learned that Gen. Lister, school-grad at Russia's Frunze Military Academy, has control of all secret-police work in Cuba. He handles the issuing of Soviet-bloc arms to Cuba's fanatical, combat-ready civilian militia, and the training of Cuban military officers assigned to the missile bases.

THE COMPLETION of these Cuban missile bases poses a real threat to the security of the U. S., according to a study by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

These military advisers of the President take the blunt position that the U. S. must take military action, if necessary, to keep Castro from installing operational IRBMs that close to the U. S.

This alarming JCS warning has so far brought no affirmative response from President Kennedy. He has refrained from acting on the ground that the U. S. still lacks "hard" intelligence that any actual missiles are at these bases.

The JCS takes the position that if missiles are not in underground storage areas, they will be stationed at the bases as soon as Premier Khrushchev believes it is to Russia's advantage to do so.

IN ADDITION to their missile base warning, the JCS has sent the White House a third report that Russia has supplied Cuba with poison gas.

The latest information comes from two Cuban army defectors who told U. S. intelligence agencies that they helped unload Czech-made "gas" shells from a Soviet ship.

The first report came from a reliable informant in Havana. He furnished the Defense Intelligence Agency with the name of the Soviet ship and the date on which the poison gas arrived in Cuba.

The second report was furnished by a Cuban defector. He witnessed the spraying of a liquid-type gas on a small group of anti-Castro freedom fighters in the mountains of Central Cuba.